

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
  - an enclosure; and
  - a plane assembly mounted within the enclosure and configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices, the plane assembly comprising:
    - a first plane portion having multiple connectors; and
    - at least a second plane portion having multiple connectors, the second plane portion being offset from the first plane portion to define a gap that is dimensioned to promote airflow through the enclosure.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are elevationally offset within the enclosure.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are longitudinally offset within the enclosure.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are elevationally and longitudinally offset within the enclosure.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the enclosure has a height and said plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the enclosure has a height and said plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height, and wherein the plane portion heights are about equal to one another.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said plane assembly comprises a back plane assembly.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said plane assembly comprises a mid-plane assembly.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blades.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blade servers.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the plane assembly comprises only the first and second plane portions.

12. A system comprising:

an enclosure comprising a base, a top and a pair of sidewalls joined with and extending between the base and top to define an interior volume within which multiple pluggable devices can be received, the enclosure having a front and a back;

a first back plane portion mounted within the enclosure and comprising multiple connectors; and

a second back plane portion mounted within the enclosure and comprising multiple connectors, the second back plane portion being spaced apart from the first back plane portion effective to define a gap that allows air entering from the front of the enclosure to escape at the back of the enclosure.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second back plane portions are longitudinally and elevationally spaced apart within the enclosure.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the enclosure has a height between the base and the top, and the first and second back plane portions have respective heights, wherein the collective height of the back plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the enclosure has a height between the base and the top, and the gap has a gap width between the first and second back plane portions that is no less than about one half of the enclosure height.
16. The system of claim 12, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blades.
17. The system of claim 12, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blade servers.
18. A system comprising:
  - an enclosure;
  - a mid-plane assembly mounted within the enclosure and configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices, the mid-plane assembly comprising:
    - a first mid-plane portion having multiple connectors on both sides thereof; and
    - at least a second mid-plane portion having multiple connectors on both sides thereof, the second mid-plane portion being offset from the first mid-plane portion.
19. The system of claim 18, wherein said mid-plane portions are elevationally and longitudinally offset within the enclosure.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the enclosure has a height and said mid-plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the mid-plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.

21. An apparatus comprising:

a first grippable end;

a second end spaced from the first end;

a body that extends between the first and second end;

the second end comprising a terminus having a pair of offset extensions, individual offset extensions comprising electrical and mechanical structures that are configured to be received by a connector pair comprising individual connectors mounted on spaced-apart plane portions which are spaced apart to define a gap between the individual plane portions to accommodate airflow through an enclosure in which the plane portions are mounted.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the offset extensions are configured to be received by a connector pair of a back plane.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the offset extensions are configured to be received by a connector pair of a mid-plane.

24. A method comprising:

providing an enclosure; and

mounting a plane assembly within the enclosure by mounting a first plane portion having multiple connectors within the enclosure and mounting a second plane portion having multiple connectors within the enclosure;

the second plane portion being offset from the first plane portion to define a gap that is dimensioned to promote airflow through the enclosure, the plane assembly being configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said acts of mounting comprise elevationally and longitudinally offsetting said plane portions within the enclosure.